THE EARL OF ESSEX ADMITTED TO THE COUNCIL

This day the Earl of Essex, Master of the Horse, having taken the Oath of Supremacy, and of a Privy Councillor, took his place at the Council Board

DESERTERS IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE

It is reported from Gloucestershire that of 150 soldiers that were imprested in that county and await a favourable wind at Southampton, 40 have escaped or been released by the indirect means of the officers that have the conducting of them

26th February A COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE APPOINTED

In the House it was proposed that a grave Committee should be elected to consult about the provision of treasure in this present time of danger

Sir Robert Cecil spoke first, showing that when the King of Spam sent his navy against us, it was almost upon our banks ere we were aware of it, yea, and we were so slack in provision that it was too late to make resistance, had not God preserved us Now he hath gone about to win France, wherein he hath greatly prevailed, and specially in Brittany, having most part of the port towns in his possession, whither he sendeth supply daily, and reinforces them every four or five months This province he specially desireth, for it lieth most fit to annoy us, whither he may send his forces continually and there have his Navy in readiness, and besides may keep us from traffic to Rochelle and Bordeaux, as he hath done in the Straits from Tripoli and St Jean de Luce And so he hmdereth us from carrying forth and bringing into this land any commodities from those parts, where the realm might be innched and her Majesty's impost ever eased, being one of the great revenues of the Crown In Scotland also the King of

Spain's malice daily mcreaseth against us, and at home the number of papists, or at leastwise becomes more manifest

After him Sir John Wolley exhorted the House to a speedy agreeing of a subsidy, and then Sir John Fortescue spake showing the great charges that her Majesty had been at, insomuch that the burden of four Kingdoms rested upon her, which she maintained with her purse, England, France, Ireland and Scotland She had assisted the French King with men and money